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SUBJECT: ANDORRA PROPOSES TAX INFORMATION EXCHANGE  
AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S.

REF: BARCELONA 32

Post received on August 5 a faxed diplomatic note from Andorra's foreign ministry asking us to forward a letter from Andorran Finance Minister Pere Lopez Agras to Treasury Secretary Geithner regarding the GOA's interest in starting Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) negotiations. The letter contains an offer to send an Andorran delegation to the U.S. in September and asks for a point of contact. Full text of the (English-language) letter follows:

Andorra la Vella, 30 July 2009

Excellency,

I am pleased to inform you hereby that the Principality of Andorra signed on 10 March 2009 a unilateral statement declaring the will of the Government of Andorra to adapt to OECD standards for the exchange of information relating to tax matters.

In this sense allow me to express the interest of my Government to initiate negotiations for the signing of an agreement for the exchange of information relating to tax matters between the Principality of Andorra and the United States of America.

However considering the Andorran legislative elections took place last 26 April and the new Government was set up last 7 June, during the first week of September the Consell General that is our Parliament will examine the bill modifying regulations on bank secrecy currently in force.

As soon as the appropriate legislative modifications are done, we will be able to commence formal negotiations of agreements for the exchange of information relating to tax matters with several countries.

Therefore if this proposal is of your interest, an Andorran delegation will be willing to travel to your country in September. In order to begin talks formally, I would be grateful if you could provide me with the contact details of the person from your Cabinet who is in charge of these matters so as Mr. Marc Juan (marc.juan@govern.ad; tel: 00376875700) from my Ministry contacts him/her.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

/ s /  
Pere Lopez Agras  
Minister of Finance

End text.  
CHACON